

## Officer Michell Grataski

### Patrol Officer Since 1999



*Early on Michell learned that society had assigned different roles for men and women. Adhering to her role as she was growing up, Michell was discouraged from getting involved in sports and other activities that may have been hazardous. Even so, that did not keep Michell from dreaming about the opportunities that may be available to her after she grew up.*

*After graduating from High School, Michell began working for a Credit Research company. While working at the company Michell decided to explore the possibility of going into law enforcement. When she shared her decision with her family, Michell's family hated the idea. Top on their list was their concern over her safety. Michell's father was the most vocal; he couldn't understand why she would choose to expose herself to "everything he worked hard to protect her from".*

*After meeting with the police recruiters, Michell stated that she felt a lot more confident about her decision to becoming a police officer. Michell further stated that some of the most helpful tools were the free workshops offered that address both the written exam and fitness evaluation. Upon completing the fitness workshop, Michell knew she had two things to accomplish before entering the academy, if she got accepted. The first thing was to begin a good physical training program so that she wouldn't struggle so much through the academy. The second thing was to begin working on her psyche to make sure that she had sufficient drive to make it through the academy. Although, she had always been known to "give it her all", she had to prepare herself for the possibility that she might have to go through this journey with little or no support.*

*Michell recalls her experiences in the academy as period of self-discovery. The academy staff helped her identify her limitations, while teaching her how to maximize the use of her assets. Michell says that she makes it a point to "thank God everyday" for her job, "I am proud of my accomplishments and I respect myself more for earning the honor of being a San Antonio Police Officer." As for her family, Michell says that everyone in her family, including her dad, is extremely proud of her and her accomplishments.*

*Michell is not only known for being very pro-active while patrolling her neighborhoods, but is also recognized as a very talented young lady who at one time sang for the "Alamo City Heat" band. Alamo City Heat performs at a wide variety of functions, including schools, parades, city functions, and other venues to share the anti-drug, anti-gang message with the community. "Alamo City Heat" performs not only within the city of San Antonio, and the surrounding area, but also throughout Texas and the United States.*

